

Born and raised in Bayonne, Ms. Ahearn holds a degree in business from Rutgers University and a master's degree in education from Kean University. She and her husband are the proud parents of one daughter.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gina Ahearn for her outstanding leadership and dedication to serving the Bayonne community.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMERCIAL TRUCK HIGHWAY SAFETY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2005

#### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my good friend TOM ALLEN, I am introducing the Commercial Truck Highway Safety Demonstration Program Act of 2005. This bill would allow Maine to increase the weight limits for trucks on interstate highways, by granting a three-year waiver of federal rules. It mandates a study process that will help demonstrate the positive safety effects of this change, and permit the waiver to be extended pending these safety determinations.

This bill is important both for public safety and economic reasons. The administration of the current 80,000 pound federal weight limit law in Maine has forced heavy tractor-trailer and tractor-semi-trailer combination vehicles, traveling into Maine from neighboring States and Canada, to divert onto small State and local roads where higher vehicle weight limits apply under Maine law.

The diversion of those vehicles onto such roads causes significant economic hardships and safety challenges for small communities located along those roads. Permitting heavy commercial vehicles to travel on Interstate System highways in Maine would enhance public safety by reducing the number of heavy vehicles that use town and city streets, and as a result, the number of dangerous interactions between those heavy vehicles and other vehicles such as school buses and private cars.

It would also reduce the net highway maintenance costs in Maine because the Interstate System highways, unlike the secondary roads of Maine, are built to accommodate heavy vehicles and are, therefore, more durable.

Finally, this bill would ensure that Maine can remain competitive in the transportation and manufacturing sectors, and that our neighbors do not pass us by in development. This change is fair, and will promote parity in transportation throughout New England.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will enhance safety, lower maintenance costs, and promote economic development.

#### HONORING THE SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, the oldest and largest voluntary organization in San Luis Obispo County, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

Rarely has a local organization done more to improve the quality of life of an entire region than the San Luis Obispo Chamber.

When the Chamber opened in 1905, the railroad had come to town just a few years before, and San Luis was developing an economy that went beyond farming for the first time. Led by CEO Dave Garth for the last 32 years, the Chamber now boasts 1,389 members and a staff of 15.

The Chamber will celebrate its centennial with a dinner at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo on March 12, 2005. This vibrant and active organization has contributed an enormous amount to a community that I am terribly proud to represent.

#### IN HONOR OF THOMAS WALSH

#### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Walsh for his years of outstanding service to his community and country. Mr. Walsh was honored at the annual brunch for the Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which was held on February 20, 2005.

Serving as an assistant to the Grand Marshall this year, Mr. Walsh previously spent twelve years working as the publicity chairman for the parade. Since 1993, he has been the coordinator of the event. An active member of the Bayonne community, Mr. Walsh has been affiliated with numerous organizations, including the National Defense Transportation Association, the Bayonne Elks Club, and the Bayonne PAL Board of Directors.

Mr. Walsh graduated from Trenton State College with a degree in English. Later, he worked in Bayonne as a public information officer before becoming a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command, Atlantic, and the U.S. Army Fort Hamilton Military Community. Throughout the years, Mr. Walsh has utilized his public relations skills to assist organizations such as Hudson County Cerebral Palsy, the Hudson County Association of Retarded Citizens, and the Bayonne Friends of the Handicapped with publicity.

During his time with the Armed Forces, he received ten Outstanding Performance and Special Act Awards. For the past seven years, he has been teaching at the Police Athletic

League Day Care Center where he assists students with school assignments and manages field trips and other recreational events. Mr. Walsh also helps the center by writing funding proposals and press releases. When he is not working with children, he participates in the Military Sealift Command Retirees Association.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Walsh for his strong leadership and tireless efforts to help others.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SISTERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, AND PHYSICIANS OF OSF ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

#### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 1880 the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis opened St. Joseph's Hospital in Bloomington, Illinois. Today, 125 years later, OSF St. Joseph Hospital remains open and ready to care for the sick.

From the very beginning, the Sisters faced adversity, but with the support of the community the hospital was able to endure. Even those outside the Sisters' religious community joined in caring for the sick, thus establishing a bond between the Sisters and the people of McLean County that is strong to this day.

Over the past 125 years, St. Joseph's Hospital has seen its share of changes. A new St. Joseph's Hospital opened in March of 1968 along Veterans Parkway. Since then many additions have been made, including two new medical plazas, an advanced medicine center, new physician offices, a surgery wing, two urgent care clinics and a musculoskeletal center. In 1987, the hospital's name changed to OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. While the structure and name of St. Joseph's Hospital has changed, the desire and devotion of the Sisters, employees, volunteers and physicians to serve God's people has remained steadfast.

In its 125-year history, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center has accumulated many accomplishments and "firsts". For example, the first successful blood transfusion and Caesarean section in Central Illinois occurred at St. Joseph's in 1929. In addition, St. Joseph's Hospital was home to the first radiation treatments in Bloomington-Normal.

Today, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center cares for over 6,000 inpatients and 250,000 outpatients annually. They also welcome more than 800 babies every year. The Medical Center is now a nationally-recognized leader in the reduction of adverse drug events and surgical safety.

Again Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the many generations of Sisters, employees, volunteers and physicians of OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. For 125 years this hospital has served as a tremendous example of the good that can be done when people come together to serve their communities.

March 1, 2005

HONORING MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the members of Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate the 60th anniversary of the formation of their parent organization.

The Polish American Congress represents close to 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its members are comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. They are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The record of the Polish American Congress is a proud one. Indeed, it is as impressive as its fidelity to its historic political aims over the past 60 years. Their accomplishments, which are numerous, include: Representing the aspirations for freedom and self-determination of the Polish people at the United Nations, at international conferences, in the United States Congress, at the national conventions of the major political parties, and before the Presidents of the United States; gaining U.S. backing for Radio Free Europe to inform the peoples of Communist-ruled Eastern Europe about what was happening in their countries and abroad, and effectively defended continued funding for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty throughout the Cold War era; contributing more than \$200 million in medical and material help to Poles, following the collapse of the Communist-run Polish economy after 1981.

Mr. Speaker, the Polish American Congress, over the past 60 years, has remained a vibrant and effective political action organization, articulating its concerns in Washington and around the country to a host of government and political leaders. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring this organization and its members. Through their dedicated efforts, 10 million Polish Americans today can feel a sense of pride in having an organization that represents their interests and aspirations.

IN HONOR OF ADAM CZUBA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Adam Czuba on being named Sir

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Knight of the Year by the Knights of Columbus (K of C). Mr. Czuba was recognized at the annual Knight of Honors event on February 26, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

The Sir Knight of the Year award is a special distinction given to the K of C member who has faithfully and commendably executed his role as a Fourth Degree Knight, has been most helpful in aiding the Past Faithful Navigator, and has demonstrated a thorough understanding and respect for the ideals of the Order.

Mr. Czuba became a Third Degree Knight in 1975 and has spent decades serving the Council and the Assembly. He achieved the rank of Fourth Degree Knight in 2001 and currently serves in the Color Corps. As a dedicated member of the K of C, Mr. Czuba has helped coordinate multiple events and activities for the Order, such as the flea market, bowling league, country western dances, and numerous charity events.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Czuba has worked for 22 years at the Keystone Folding Box Company. In addition to his involvement with the K of C, Mr. Czuba has served as a Cub Master for the Boy Scouts and is a member of the Hudson County Animal League.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Adam Czuba for his recognition as Knight of the Year, his dedicated work with the K of C, and his outstanding service to the community.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. NEAL and I rise today to congratulate The New England Council as they celebrate their 80th anniversary of being a regional voice for the people of New England.

For 80 years The New England Council has been instrumental in uniting the region's business and political leaders to discuss and shape public policies and programs that advance the economic well-being of the region. As a nonprofit alliance of schools, hospitals, corporations, public agencies and other organizations throughout New England, the Council has worked diligently to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the six-state region.

We commend your leadership in identifying challenges and opportunities and looking for regional solutions on issues including energy, workforce development, healthcare, transportation and education.

Under the leadership of Jim Brett and the Council's esteemed Board of Directors, the Council has played a significant role in both providing a forum and in advocating an agenda that addresses the issues which impact New Englanders and the regional economy.

We applaud the Council's efforts to promote the economic growth of New England and to improve the quality of life for those who live throughout the region.

We ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the 80th anniversary of The New Eng-

land Council and in wishing the Council continued success as it faces the challenges and possibilities of the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE M. RAMER

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my very good friend, Bruce M. Ramer, who is receiving the Learned Hand Award at the American Jewish Committee's 25th Anniversary Dinner, March 10, 2005. Bruce is a prominent member of the legal profession, a dedicated leader in the community and a distinguished spokesman in support of human rights.

Bruce began his legal career at the prestigious entertainment law firm of Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown, and is currently a partner in the firm. Prior to moving to Los Angeles from New Jersey, he earned a graduate degree at Princeton University, attended Harvard University Law School and was active in the military. The National Law Journal ranks him among the 100 most influential lawyers in America, California Business Lawyer cites him as one of the 100 most powerful lawyers in California, and the Daily Journal places him in the top 100 lawyers in California. Over the many years of our friendship, I have developed enormous admiration for his work and valued his advice.

For more than 30 years, Bruce has supported the American Jewish Committee, AJC. He is the Chair of the AJC's Latino and Latin American Institute. He served as National President from 1998 to 2002, chaired the National Board of Governors, the National Executive Council, the National Board of Trustees, and AJC's Asia and Pacific Rim Institute. He also was the AJC's Western Region Chair and past President of the Los Angeles Chapter. His tireless efforts have helped make the AJC the incredible institution it has become.

Bruce has also provided leadership to many other worthwhile organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Council on International Policy, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, the Righteous Persons Foundation, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games and the Alfred Herrhausen Society for International Dialogue of the Deutsche Bank. He is the Founding Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Geffen Playhouse (UCLA) in Los Angeles, and a member of the Board of Directors of Rebuild LA, LA 2000 Partnership, LA Urban League, United Way, Los Angeles Children's Museum, UCLA School of Medicine and the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles. He also served on the Economic Strategy Panel of the State of California and on the American Bar Association Special Committee on Judicial Independence. Many people, organizations, and causes have benefited from his dedication and hard work.

In addition to his professional and civic accomplishments, Bruce and his wife Madeline Smith Ramer have raised four children and